

San Juan County Index

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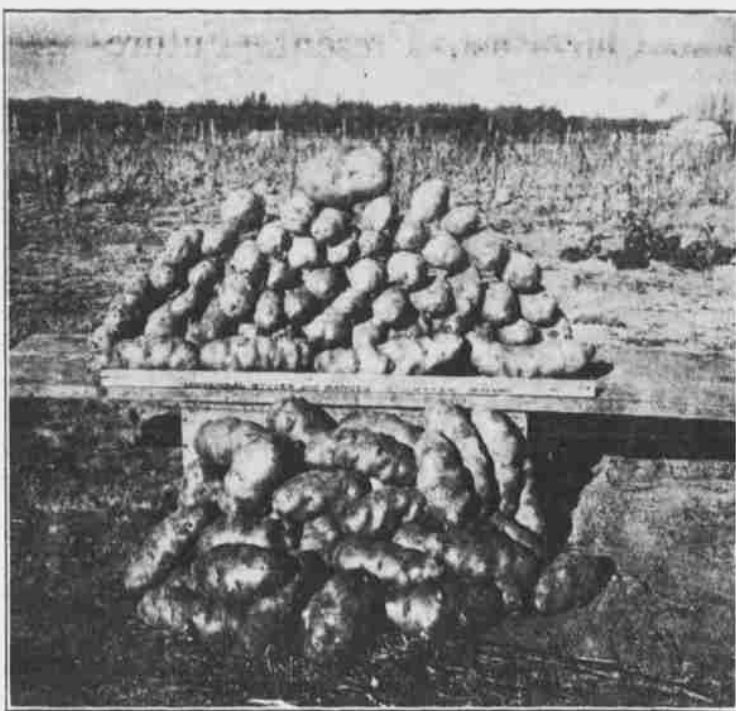
Richer Than Nile Valley

THE IRRIGATED VALLEYS OF THE WEST SURPASS IN FERTILITY EGYPT'S FAMED GARDEN SPOT.

That the wealth of ancient Egypt and wonders surpassing those of the valley of the Nile are contained in New Mexico is the statement made by the Chicago Tribune in a recent issue which tells of the aims and objects of the great land irrigations exposition to be held in the Windy City in November. The Tribune says:

"Herein, traversed by rivers like the Nile, stretches the Egypt of the New world, as much richer in agricultural wealth as modern methods of farming are more productive than the crude tillage of old. The great valleys of the Pecos, Rio Grande, San Juan, Animas, Salt River and lower Colorado contain the same alluvial soil which made Egypt so fertile in the days of the Pharaohs. There is the same clear, luminous atmosphere overhead, the same delicious climate, the same dependence upon irrigating rivers. Without water this garden spot of the modern world would be as arid as Sahara—with water it is beginning to yield a fabulous wealth. A single acre has been known to earn \$1,000 worth of produce in a year.

"In his message to Congress, in speaking of the lower valley of the Colorado, ex-President Roosevelt said: 'A most conservative estimate after full development, must place the gross products from this land at not less than \$700 an acre per year, every ten acres of which will support a family when under intense cultivation. Much of the land will be worth from \$500



FOUR POTATOES TO A YARD—20 TO A BUSHEL GROWN BY JOHN SUTLIFF, AZTEC, N. M.

to \$1,500 per acre to individual owners. This is a conservative estimate, based upon facts carefully prepared by expert observers.

Thousands of years ago the Toltec civilization was founded upon these fertile valleys. The same inexhaustible rivers were tapped for irrigation—but on a vastly more limited scale. Some of the irrigating ditches still remain, in puny contrast with the mammoth dams and reservoirs being built by the U. S. government, which will accumulate water enough in a single season to irrigate millions of acres.

First and foremost is alfalfa—king of forage plants, from six to ten tons to the acre. It is self-perpetuating—requires no resetting for years—and annually enriches the soil. It thrives on rather than exhausts it. Its deep growing roots draw moisture from the under-soil and nitrogen from the upper air—the two most valuable elements of fertility in any climate. Profits average \$60 per acre and sometimes more. Ripe strawberries on Christmas day are not uncommon. Truck gardening continues throughout the year, yielding produce abundant for early market. A winter crop of Bermuda onions has yielded as high as \$300 per acre. An acre of cantaloupes is worth \$400 and an acre of tomatoes \$500.

"Irrigated lands may still be had at a low figure, but they are being rapidly taken, and prices will increase 100 per cent in the next three years, according to reliable authorities. Irrigated lands are necessarily limited to a narrow strip of territory on either side of the great river beds, and within reach of a network of ditches

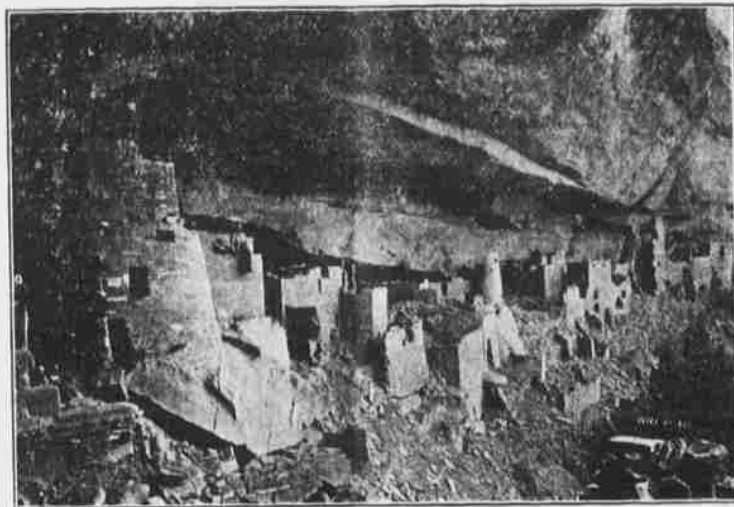
which carry the water into adjacent fields. The limited supply of available land is certain to raise prices rapidly, and the time is likely not far distant when a ten-acre farm under cultivation will be worth from \$2,000 to \$10,000 in cash."

One Comfort.

A certain lady prides herself upon always looking at the bright side of things.

"My dear," moaned her husband one day recently, as he tossed restlessly on his bed, "It's the doctor I'm thinking of. What a bill his will be!"

"Never mind, Joseph," said his wife. "You know there's the insurance money."—Stray Stories.



CLIFF DWELLERS' RUINS, THIS COUNTY.

Inexhaustible Water Supply of San Juan County, N. M.

IF EVERY CUBIC FOOT OF WATER FLOWING THROUGH THIS FERTILE COUNTY IN ONE YEAR SHOULD BE HELD BACK, IT WOULD COVER 5,742 SQUARE MILES TO A DEPTH OF ONE AND ONE-HALF FEET.—NEW IRRIGATION PROJECTS ARE NOW BUILDING TO USE SOME OF THIS WATER.

Water! water everywhere in San Juan county. Water in quantities at every season of the year sufficient to flood the county. Water that is worth millions of dollars in any irrigated country and worth that to San Juan county, with its fertile land and temperate climate.

The San Juan river which is the county's principal stream, has its source in the San Juan, Needle and Oso mountains along the continental divide in Colorado. Its waters empty into the Colorado river in Utah and find their way to the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean. The river drains more than 3,000 square miles of territory at and above an elevation of 8,000 feet, some of the peaks in its drainage basin rising to a height of 14,000 feet.

The reports of the United States geological survey and Weather Bureau show that the San Juan delivers above the mouth of the Animas, about 2,000,000 acre-feet of water annually, or water sufficient to cover 2,000,000 acres of land a foot deep with water each year. A very small portion of this water is now being diverted for irrigation. The San Juan is the combined flow of eighteen perennial streams and is fed during freshets by innumerable "dry arroyos."

The Animas river is the combined flow of fourteen perennial streams, drains an area of more than 1,500 square miles at and above an altitude of 8,000 feet and its annual delivery of water at its junction with the San

Juan is about 1,400,000 acre feet. The La Plata river drains the La Plata mountain region in southwestern Colorado, the mountains rising to an altitude of 12,000 feet. Its drainage basin is approximately 300 square miles and its annual delivery of water into the San Juan averages 200,000 acre-feet.

During the rainy season the drainage basin of the Pecos, Gobernador, Largo, Gallegos, and Chusca canyons and arroyos furnish enormous quantities of water.

The total delivery of water of the San Juan river at the points where it flows out of San Juan county is about 5,500,000 acre-feet annually, or as has been said, sufficient to inundate the

entire county a foot and half deep each year.

With such a water supply it is easily seen that the farming districts of San Juan county are more favored than perhaps any other irrigated districts in the United States.

It is from the San Juan river as illustrated here, that the Citizens canal takes its water. The few cubic feet the Citizens canal will take from this mighty stream will affect it about in the same ratio as taking a drop of water out of a bucket.

A future article will deal with the supply of land in San Juan county upon which the 5,500,000 acre feet of water may be utilized. Verily, the Land of Promise is the Sunny San Juan, and it invites thrifty citizens to whom rich rewards are certain.

Bird Sanctuary in Town Common.

The growth of the garden city, Letchworth, threatens to drive birds to more secluded spots. To prevent this the directors propose to convert Norton Common, in the center of the town, into a bird sanctuary. Here weeds, grasses, berries and fruits of various kinds which are pleasing to birds will be cultivated and part of the common will be fenced in for nesting.—London Daily Mail.

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TAILOR

AZTEC, NEW MEXICO

THE BUREAU of IMMIGRATION

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TO INTENDED SETTLERS.

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